

**Description of Drought Indices**  
(from Table 3 of Massachusetts Drought Management Plan).

Drought Level	Standardized Precipitation Index	Crop Moisture Index*	Keetch-Byram Drought Index*	Precipitation	Groundwater	Streamflow	Reservoir***
Normal	3-month > -1.5 <u>or</u> 6-month > -1.0 <u>or</u> 12-month > -1.0	0.0 to -1.0 slightly dry	< 200	1 month below normal	2 consecutive months below normal**	1 month below normal**	Reservoir levels at or near normal for the time of year
Advisory	3-month = -1.5 to -2.0 <u>or</u> 6-month = -1.0 to -1.5 <u>or</u> 12-month = -1.0 to -1.5	-1.0 to -1.9 abnormally dry	200-400	2 month cumulative below 65% of normal	3 consecutive months below normal**	At least 2 out of 3 consecutive months below normal**	Small index Reservoirs below normal
Watch	3-month < -2.0 <u>or</u> 6-month = -1.5 to -3.0 <u>or</u> 12-month = -1.5 to -2.0	-2.0 to -2.9 excessively dry	400-600	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. < 65% <u>or</u> 6 month cum. < 70% <u>or</u> 12 month cum. < 70%	4-5 consecutive months below normal**	At least 4 out of 5 consecutive months below normal**	Medium index Reservoirs below normal
Warning	6-month < -3.0 <u>or</u> 12-month = -2.0 to -2.5	< -2.9 severely dry	600-800	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. < 65% and 6 month cum. < 65%, <u>or</u> 6 month cum. < 65% and 12 month cum. < 65%, <u>or</u> 3 month cum. < 65% and 12 month cum. < 65%	6-7 consecutive months below normal**	At least 6 out of 7 consecutive months below normal**	Large index reservoirs below normal
Emergency	12-month < -2.5	< -2.9 severely dry	600-800	Same criteria as Warning and previous month was Warning or Emergency	>8 months below normal**	>7 months below normal**	Continuation of previous month's conditions

\* The Crop Moisture Index is subject to frequent change. The drought level for this indicator is determined based on the repeated or extended occurrence at a given level.

\*\* Below normal for groundwater and streamflow are defined as being within the lowest 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of the period of record.

\*\*\* Water suppliers should be consulted to determine if below normal reservoir conditions are due to operational issues.